The 9th African Virtual Internet Governance Forum (vAfIGF2020)

25-27 November 2020

"Unlocking Africa's Digital Opportunities During and Post COVID-19"

Report

Background of AfIGF

The African Internet Governance Forum is Africa's multi stakeholder forum of Internet actors. It carries the voices and efforts of the African continent to the global agenda, while ensuring that the benefits of a viable information society accrue to every African. It was formally launched in Nairobi, during the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2011. The AfIGF Secretariat is hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum's website is https://2020.afigf.africa/. It currently runs social media outlets on Twitter and Facebook.

Objectives of AfIGF

AfIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. Specific objectives include:

- To increase awareness and build capacity on IG for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction.
- To ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process.
- To put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with IG issues in the continent and to strengthen the multistakeholder model used for IG discourses taking place at regional and national forums.
- To ensure a multistakeholder representation by embracing all Internet actors in the continent.
- To ensure that all the countries are part of the regional processes and launch/strengthen their national processes.
- To facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in the continent.
- To facilitate the participation of African stakeholders in AfIGF and other appropriate regional and national IGFs.
- To promote the use of African languages in the cyberspace.

Partners

The 9th virtual African IGF was organized by the African Union Commission with financial support from.

a) PRIDA

b) APC

c) ICANN

d) IGFSA

Opening Ceremony

Moderated by: Mr. Adil Sulieman, AUC

Rapporteur: Taiwo Peter Akinremi, Nigeria

Speakers:

- Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat, UN

- Jean-Paul Adam, UNECA

- Amb Birgitte Markussen, EU

- Dr. Amani Abu-Zeid, AU

Mr Adil Sulieman

With a brief introduction of the speakers, he welcomed the attendees to the 9th African Internet Governance Forum. He added that African IGF aims to bring stakeholders together to dialogue & discussions on policy related issues to the development of the internet and to share experiences and identify key challenges in Africa. Mr. Adil extended appreciation to the partners of AfIGF: The EU, ICANN, Internet Society, APC & AFRINIC. He noted that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic hindered physical meeting but appreciate the availability of internet to host this year IGF. He reminded the participants of the theme: Unlocking Africa's Digital opportunities during the Post Covid-19. He then informed that the African IGF is preceded by school on internet governance and African Youth IGF which was held on 23rd and 24th.

Mr. Chengatai Masango

He welcomed the participants and thanked everyone for keeping the IGF active and on-going. He noted that Covid-19 has demonstrated that the digital is the pillar of the new normal, making it cogent to invest in digital literacy, stable connection, and reliable devices so that all can enjoy its advantages. With increase in connectivity, its dangers and vulnerabilities are visible. Chengatai noted that pandemic has made it visible that digital divide exists between the connected and unconnected. He recommends the need to continue cooperation across all sectors to put in place effective and normative

frameworks for meaningful connection of everybody; and IGF is the space to do that; and there is need to continue improving it. He reminded the participant the saying of United Nations Secretary General during the 2020 IGF that the forum needs to be a multistakeholder driven to share best practices and debate. He mentioned that NRIs makes the IGF powerful and relevant. And that internet has proved itself as a driver of the sustainable development goal which is known to us all. Chengatai stresses the need for equality and equitable world. And further added that developing and least develop nations need global investment. In his speech he noted the need to invest in the youth as the current generation will not solve all the internet challenges otherwise, we will be behind technological development.

Mr Jean-Paul Adam

He gave a warm welcomed to everyone and noted that ae are in a decisive time to build better Africa and for the world. He indicated that there was still a long way to go until everyone can feel the benefits of a digital society on the African continent. The digital transformation is hindered by continent-wide challenges linked to access, cost, speed of access, the gender digital divide as well as people's mobility. As part of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa, he noted that digital transformation strategies are among the most effective accelerants to improve inclusion and bring Africa back on track towards the SDGs, and that there were some promising signs of the recognition for broad-based digitalization as one of the key learnings from the COVID-19 crisis. He welcomed everyone to be part of the digital transformation. Jean further stress that African IGF is the platform to identify issues and opportunities.

Ambassador Birgitte Markussen

She appreciated the opportunity for the keynote address and noted that the corporation on digital transformation is a top priority. She noted that that its widely recognized that digitization is one of the most powerful tools for implementing the Sustainable Development goals and agenda 2063 for Africa. Birgitte stress that digital transformation is a key sector of the EU cooperation with Africa and the corporation is already tackling areas such as broadband, digital literacy and skills, e-services and digital economy. She noted that Covid-19 pandemic crisis has changed the world; created challenges and impacts across the world. Birgitte added that COVID-19 has shown the role of digital technology and data, in how we work, public services,

education, business and governance. She remined that the misused of technologies can harm human right, and democracy. She added that European Union approach on digital is to ensure a right approach to digital transformation to promote democracy, governance, and human right. And EU put people at the core of technological development and digital technologies usage. She noted that the EU believed that Internet Governance debate should reflect multistakeholder nature, transparence and be inclusive. Birgitte stress that the European Union will not condole any attempt to alter the free and open principles of internet.

Dr. Amany Abou Zeid

In her keynote address, she recognized the critical time of the world's situation and COVID-19 pandemic clearly shown that digital transformation is not a wishful thinking and there is need for immediate action to make it work for us and not against us. She noted that covid-19 disruption has affected health system, and economy, and will reshape all the sectors Due to the severe effect of covid-19, there is need for a fast development paths and approaches to ensure fast, resiliency and recovery she said. Dr. Amany recognized that Covid-19 may force policy makers to prioritize immediate response and containment and that government have the responsibility of developing strategies to mitigate economic and social disruption. She added that the pandemic placed a huge demand for digital solutions and applications. Dr Amany reminded that the African Union has been advocating for Digital Transformation for years and it should be the top priority irrespective of the sector in question to promote inclusion and regional integration in Africa. In addition, she noted that interoperability is another issue that the African Union is at the front burner. She submitted that there are different initiatives to streamline the various digital initiatives across the continent as part of digital transformation strategy. She highlighted the approved COVID-19 action plan by the African Minister on ICT, which laid the foundation for collaboration of African countries in technology solutions. Dr. Abou Zeid reminded that the participation of Africa in the global Internet debates remains low and now is the time to establish structure, processes to address challenges and protect culture, heritage, and economic interest. She added that in addressing the Africa human capacity and resources, PRIDA was established with the aim of boosting Africa participation in the global deliberation and discussions. Dr Amany put forward that the African Union believes that Digital Transformation of Africa should focus these pillars: policy

innovation for Digital Development, regulatory, legal issues, research and innovation in Tech development, digital skills development, promotion of public-private partnership, promotion of the development of the local content for addressing social and cultural dynamics and inclusion to make sure that no one is left behind especially women . She noted the need to address policy silos and need for policy coherence at all national and continental policymaking. And that is why Africa Union has taken steps to improve access, addressing cybercrime, and active participation at the global level. In conclusion, Dr Amany calls for efficient coordination and diversity in participation as well as development of information and communication technology for the benefits of economy and the continent

Key Issues Raised:
- The COVID-19 pandemic shows that digital divide exists between those who are connected and unconnected
- Low participation of Africa in the global Internet debates
- Prioritization of Digital Transformation in Africa
- Digital Literacy, skill development and right approach towards digital transformation

Recommended Implementable Actions:
- The need for cooperation towards the Africa Digital Transformation
- Harmonization of policy to achieve policy coherence at all stake in Africa
- Invest in equipping youth with skills and knowledge today to ensure continuously we are quicker in responding to the continuously developing cyber issues and to have the youth voices heard
- Internet Governance Forum need to remain and retain multistakeholder nature.
- The call for investment in digital literacy, accessibility, and reliable devices
- Invest efforts to reach equality and equity in the online world.

Plenary Session : Creating a sustainable digital taxation regime in Africa
Moderator: Adil Sulieman— African Union
Online Moderator: Prof. Alison Gillwald —Research ICT Africa / University of Cape Town

Rapporteurs: Shamira Ahmed—Research ICT Africa

Panelists:

- Juliet Nanfuka, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
- Linda Bonyo, African Lawyers Hub
- Thulani Shongwe, African Taxation Administration Forum (ATAF)
- Artur Olszewski, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Gaia Penteriani, GSMA

OECD

The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework (IF) on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) is an ongoing project on addressing the tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy, that also allows non-OECD member States, including African countries to participate in the process.

The OECD has also developed Model Rules for *OECD Member States* that require digital platforms to collect information on the income realised by the gig and sharing economy—businesses that offer accommodation, transport and personal services through platforms. Under the Model Rules these platforms are required to report the income information to tax authorities. The Model Rules demonstrate that effective taxation of users of sharing and gig economy platforms is an issue that many tax administrations are grappling with and that, regardless of any action taken domestically, are rather strengthened by international cooperation to making these measures successful.

ATAF

The OECD BEPS IF presents both simplicity and complexity for African countries particularly the international tax rules which determine how multi-national enterprises (MNE's) allocate their global profits between jurisdictions, primarily using transfer pricing rules. ATAF supports the Unified Approach objective of revising the allocation of taxing rights between residence and source jurisdictions by allocating more of an MNE's taxable profits to the market jurisdictions it operates and generates value, where users are based regardless of physical presence.

ATAF has been actively participating in the work being done by the OECD BEPS IF on revising the global tax rules to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the global economy, but while ATAF supports global consensus on international tax reforms, ATAF, along with African states that are members of the IF are participating in the ongoing discussions to ensure that the new global tax rules are also fit for purpose in Africa.

GSMA

While unilateral digital taxes are a relatively new challenge for the international tax system, from a mobile telecommunications industry perspective, the industry has already been subjected to unilateral tax measures across various jurisdictions. These corporate taxes can reach up to 30% of mobile operator's revenue in some jurisdictions, the resultant effect of these often poorly designed taxes is that the policies inflate the upfront and recurring costs incurred by mobile operators which are ultimately passed on to the end user through higher prices. This not only impacts information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure investment decisions, but it also impacts affordability of mobile services, especially for those who already face connectivity barriers.

While the GSMA supports the OECD's efforts to ensure that taxes are fair and transparent, and corporate revenues should be collected in jurisdictions where they are created, regardless of physical presence—Mobile operators already bear high industry taxes and would like this to be considered in the international tax system reform.

CIPESA

Often the digital human rights impacts of these taxes are forgotten in the discourse on excise duties on OTT taxes and mobile money. In Uganda, the taxes resulted in an almost instant Internet connectivity drop off of 5 million people. Many of these taxes further narrow the already shrinking space for digital rights and freedoms, access to information, individual privacy, civic engagement, and also limit transparency, and accountability from the government—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when these mediums are used to share Pandemic information. In countries like Egypt, Tanzania and Uganda, to name a few, regressive taxes perpetuate the narrative that the Internet is only for an elite few and not for everyone.

African Lawyers Hub

The tax system should be simplified, end users/consumers who end up bearing the impact of these taxes are usually not aware of the tax implication.

Digital tax challenges are new issues, there is need to upskill policy makers to understand the new business models in the digital economy, in order to implement holistic, policies that do not stifle innovation and economic growth and hamper civic activity. Often, the processes for arriving at these taxes has not been opaque and outside of any public consultation process. There is need for government to be more transparent with how public revenue is used that and improve stakeholder engagement, to better understand how taxes impact those "on the ground'.

Key Issues Raised
- The panel highlighted both policy and other challenges regarding the impact of regressive end user taxes on objectives of affordable universal access, human rights, and socio-economic developments.
- Digital taxes affect all parts of the economy in various ways and there are needs to be cohesion and collaboration in policy design to ensure that national policies are not contradictory.
- While still not fully appropriate to address the tax policy and administration challenges of the African continent, the global reforms of the international tax regime (OECD BEPS) offers a platform to raise issues of tax avoidance issues that disproportionally impact African countries.

Recommended Implementable Actions

Policy makers should:
- Ensure that digital taxes do not impede digital economy growth
- Understand how evolving technologies have created new business models and value creation
- Strengthen regional collaboration

Plenary Session : Digital Cooperation
Moderator: Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, Chair IGF-MAG & Senior Advisor, APC

Online Facilitator: Ms. Karen Landa, UNESCO

Rapporteurs: Ms. Muriel ALAPINI, Ms. Afi EDOH

Panelists:

- Hon. Massani Koroney, MP, West African IGF Parliamentary Network
- Ms. Xianhong Hu, UNESCO
- Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma, Web Foundation
- Dr. Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President for Africa ISOC
- Mr. Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa region ICANN
- Dr Mactar Seck, UNECA
- Ms Anna Ekeledo, CEO AfriLABS

More than a panel discussion, this session moderated by Ms Anriette Esterhuysen was more of an interactive discussion between the different speakers and the participants.

In her introductory remarks, she presented the eight key actions proposed by the United Nations Secretariat for an effective implementation of Digital Cooperation:

- Achieve universal connectivity by 2030
- Build capacities on digital issues
- Ensure the protection of human rights in the digital age
- Promote the use of digital goods and services for a more equitable world
- Ensure digital inclusion for all, including layers of favored.
- Support global cooperation in Artificial Intelligence
- Promote trust and security in a new digital environment
- Build a solid architecture for the implementation of Digital Cooperation.

Before giving the floor to the various speakers, the participants were invited to give their opinion on digital cooperation through two surveys.

The first survey made it possible to collect the opinions of the participants on the question: "Do you think that the concept of Digital Cooperation is easy to understand

or not?" 50% of the participants answered "YES", 41% "NO" and 09% answered "Do not really understand this concept".

Following this survey, the floor was given to each speaker to answer questions and initiate discussion. "What do you think of the implementation of these eight key actions on the continent?" Responses were as follows:

- The problem of connectivity in Africa is inherent in every state and in the policies put in place for telecom operators
- In Africa, there is a gap in terms of connectivity within populations, especially towards women and the poorest strata. To reduce it, we need fair access to the internet, digital education
- Involvement of all stakeholders, especially the private sector and States, to support the work of civil society organizations and international organizations

For the second survey, participants had to answer the question: 'Do you think that Digital Cooperation is effective in your country? 4% responded that it was very effective, 19% effective and 78% not effective.

Following these results, the speakers therefore provided their solutions to make digital cooperation effective in African countries as follows:

- Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma: "We cannot do digital cooperation in this way, we need all stakeholders to agree on the definitions and terms that go into the clear understanding of this new approach
- The development of digital cooperation in Africa requires respect for human rights which is a common concern for every African country. African governments must take these principles into account since today access to the internet is a human right even more today with the development of Artificial Intelligence
- The development of Artificial Intelligence is an opportunity for Africa because it could allow the creation of new jobs and new uses, thus promoting the development of the digital economy and the inclusion of all layers of society

The hour and a half session ended with a call from Ms Anriette Esterhuysen to:

- The African Union for the elaboration of a joint declaration
- Stakeholders for a convergence of actions and discussions

Plenary Session : Launch of African IGF Parliamentary Network (AfIGF-PARLNet), National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs)

Moderator: Mr. Makane Faye, African IGF secretariat, Senegal
Rapporteurs: Taiwo Peter Akinremi, Africa Rapporteur Network
Speaker: Mr. Salyou Fanny, Cote d'Ivoire

African IGF Parliamentary Network

Mr. Makane Faye informed of the launch of the West African IGF Parliamentary Network (WAIGF-PARLNet) on 7 November 2020 in Niamey with a coordinating body composed of Niger (Coordinator), Ghana (Vice Coordinator), Guinea Bissau (1st Rapporteur), Gambia (2nd Rapporteur), Senegal (1st Communication Official), Cote D'ivore (2nd Communication Official) and the member includes Benin, Burkina, Cape Verde, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Mr, Salyou Fanny shared the objectives and outcomes of the African Internet Governance Forum parliamentarian network to reinforce the capacity of the parliamentarian and engage them in the IGF in African, a platform that will share best practices. Salyou noted that the network will engage with other stakeholders in the internet governance spaces, build the capacity of parliamentarians and articulate issues of internet governance forum.

Recommendations:

- Each region to set up its Network of Parliamentarians on IGF before the 10th African IGF
- Support is sought from AU, PRIDA, UNESCO, UNECA, IGFSA, ISOC, ICANN and the IGF Secretariat.

The NRIs Session

The session provides information of the processes and activities of the National, Regional and Youth IGFs, to share experiences on difficulties, successes, best

practices and failures, and make recommendations on the way forward. In this context, the following countries/regions representatives made a brief presentation: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Congo, Benin, Kenya, Liberia, Gambia, Togo, Maritius, Youth IGF, West Africa and Central Africa.

Ms. Lydienn Ntogue, Cameroon, briefed the participants on the outcome of Cameroon National IGF that covid-19 has propel and enhance the multi stakeholder collaboration on internet issues. She also noted that the Multistakeholder Advisory Committee was set up and part of the recommendation of the 2020 IGF was to have national focal points at the regional, continent, and global IGF and to have the support of the IGF Secretariat.

Salyou Fanny, Cote D'Ivore, briefed the participants on the organization of Cote D'ivore National IGF that National IGF has been legally recognized for the Government and effort was channeled in organizing awareness in schools and other areas to promote and educate on internet activities and issues.

Ms. Harimino Rakotondrainibe, Madagascar, briefed the participants on the organization of Madagascar IGF which took place online this year under the theme: "Efficient cooperation for digital divide" the 27th and 28th August. She noted that it was made possible through the support of AU through PRIDA that made it possible to have the first school on internet governance and that was the starting point for the organizing committee to identify the main issue related to the Internet in Madagascar where five main issues were identified: Internet access and affordability, digital skills and awareness, policy and law, cybersecurity, and finally local content. She noted that a public consultation reviews that access and cybersecurity and skills.

Danielle Ouanounga, Congo, briefed the participants on the organization of Congo IGF that there was collaboration among stakeholders. He noted that part of the outcome of the event is to develop a data center and deployment of marine cable as well as strategy for the development of internet in the country

Vivien Assangbe, Benin, briefed the participants that Benin National IGF created awareness on cybersecurity and internet related issues toward digital inclusion in the country. Vivien noted that the recommendation encourages the decision makers to help facilitate digital service delivery and international collaboration and that the

government should ensure a national website is setup for business in Benin and a security system for digital identity protection.

Adama Jallow, Gambia, briefed the participants on the history of Gambia National IGF. She noted that Gambia IGF was hosted on 26th and 27th August 2020 with broad support among stakeholders. Adama informed that Gambia IGF was organized under the theme Digital Inclusion in the times if Covid-19 and increasing in youth participation and as well as civil society were seen. She highlighted the discussion to be around digital inclusion, privacy and data protection and impact of social media on misinformation, and fake news.

Emmanuel Vitus, Togo, briefed the participants on the Togo National IGF. He noted that youth IGF preceded the national meeting and stakeholders were brought together. The Togo IGF enjoys the first-time participation of the members of parliament. And issues such as a resilient approach in dealing with covid-19 and the future of the internet were discussed. He stresses that the objective of this year's IGF is to maximize the opportunity of the internet and have a common approach. Emmanuel noted that cost of internet dominated the discussion as that is a major issue in Togo and as a result, the Telecommunication regulator has issued regulation to reduce the cost of internet in the country. He noted that that was a direct effect of the Togo National IGF and efforts are ongoing to involve the members of parliament in the Internet Governance Forum discussion and further stress the importance of the African Internet Governance Forum Parliament Network in that regard. He noted that effort is geared to change the MAG, charter of the Togo IGF and to plan the next youth and National IGF before the West Africa IGF and call for PRIDA support towards the organization of the school of internet governance

PeterKing Quaye, Liberia, briefed the participants on the coming back of Liberia IGF since it was organized in 2012. It was hosted in collaboration with the MAG, Ministry of post and telecommunication, The Liberia Telecommunication Authority, and ISOC Liberia on the theme: safer internet in Liberia. The Liberia IGF educated the Media on their role in promoting the internet. Peterking noted that the first school on internet governance was hosted with the support of PRIDA.

Mahandranath Busgopaul, Mauritius, briefed the participants that their IGF was organized on 11th October 2020 and main issues such as children and the internet. He commend the host for always focusing on child and family warfare.

Keith Andre, **Kenya**, brief the participants of the 14th edition of the kenya IGF which was organized by Kictanet which was held 29th of September 2020 and theme was internet for resilient and solidarity under the following thematic areas data, trust and digital inclusion. He also briefed the participants on the key issues of the Youth IGF which are digital literacy, youth participation and decision making, and accessibility, affordability and infrastructure. He further noted the key outcome for the African Union, EU PRIDA to collaborate with the youth structure, and stakeholder to advocate for meaningful licensing model for community network and urging African Union to dedicate African privacy day to raise awareness of Malabo convention and data protection and privacy principles and member states to review the tax regime on internet and digital service.

Mr. Makane Faye (Senegal), Chairperson of the Planning Committee of the West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF) provided a short report on WAIGF 2020 which was under the theme "Digital Inclusion and Access in West Africa in response to Covid-19" from 22nd to 24th of July. The sub themes discussed during the WAIGF 2020 were, among other issues, human rights in relation to sustainable development goals, cybersecurity, trust and privacy and emerging technologies.

Recommendation:

- To organize each year at least one capacity building session for National and Regional IGFs on setting up and running national and regional forums in line with the IGF principles

Plenary Session : Infrastructure and digital service: for which territoriality
Moderators: Dr. Towela Jere, AUD & the Honorary Chair of ISOC France
Online Moderator: Adil Sulieman, AUC
Rapporteur: Michel Tchonang Linze, CAPDA

Panelists :

- **Mr. Chokri Ben Romdhane,** IT senior Analyst, CNUDST, Ministry of High Education and Research, Tunisia
- **Dr. Ing. Alioune Badara Traore**, Former member of the Telecom and Post Regulatory Agency, Chairman of FEMAT and Technical Director of CNOSM Mali
- **Mr. Eric SINDEU**, Sr. Telecommunications Engineer, ART, Cameroon

The **Honorary President** of both ISOC and IGF France who is the session co-moderator welcomed all participants. He thanked CAPDA through the coordinator for organizing this experience sharing session. He indicated that with the Covid-19, several online meetings are organized on relevant topics.

Mr. Tidjani MAHAMAT ADOUM in his presentation entitled "Internet, credibility and stability for reliable digital technology that benefits all", mentioned the fact that the Internet is a public good, a key catalyst for society, and that its access is a right. This implies a certain responsibility of the actors. He added that principles, coupled with laws and rules, are the cornerstone of any policy, organization or social structure setting regime.

M. Chockri Ben Romdhane

In view of the bad practices of users related to the use of ICT, governments have opted for regulation of Internet content in order to reduce fraud as well as security problems. With the high increase in the use of Social Media and IoT, misuse is increasing on networks with the consequence of exposing users to online dangers. To this end, it necessary to provide populations with adequate and effective means to protect themselves against all these cybernetic threats. He also insisted on ensuring access of populations to the international network at reasonable costs applicable by access providers.

He also spoke of the government in the role of collaborative regulation. This should not exclude international entities such as ICANN. It is also remarkable to point out that the field of technologies evolves very quickly which does not favor enough the development of laws and regulations at the local level posing a real problem. In contrast, the private sector can, to some extent, regulate the internet by providing services for the benefit of users and influence regulators and legislators. However, this alternative only favors the business sector to the detriment of the population. Civil society is therefore called upon here to focus and guide and better support the

government in its role. Civil society must also challenge the regulator about any dysfunction and ask for substantial amendments of regulation.

Dr. Ing. Alioune Badara Traore

Based on his long experience in the field of technologies dating 1996, he raised the problem of the evolution of infrastructures by sharing the case of Mali with its earlier infrastructure development. In addition, he mentioned how with the evolution of technology today people benefit from the various services that give them satisfaction. Mr. Badara Traoré made a point of honor on digital territorialization, which makes it possible to cover a wide spectrum while solving the concern of access especially in remote areas and thus increasing the percentage of digitalization of the territory.

M. Eric SINDEU

In his remarks, he brought out the results of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) using Cameroon as an example and an assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In his report, he mentionned the digital revolution as a brilliant opportunity for Africa for its growth and economic development. He then mentioned Cameroon's achievement of the MDGs which pushed it to focus now in a new perspective of infrastructure development. He indicated that this was supported by goal number 9 of the SDGs to build a resilient infrastructure and promote sustainable industrialization encouraging innovation. Subsequently, he presented in turn Cameroon's digital development strategy with the advances in the field of broadband infrastructure.

Key Issues Raised:

- **At the infrastructure level**, there is need for a global organisation, the setting up of community networks without even forgetting the consideration of a new way of thinking, a new model in this kind of project.
- **At the level of broadband connection**, there is need of a 360-degree global vision with regard to the financing of infrastructure aiming at reducing the cost significantly.

- AU's Harmonization Strategy. Since 2007, the AU has been committed to a policy of harmonizing policies in the field of ICT. Its implementation will serve as an example to other regions and encourage people / entities to use them. It is an important imperative to seek the opinions of civil society in order to ensure the harmonization.
- The development of an institutional infrastructure
- The use of universal funds in improving access
- The problem of investment in infrastructure
- The development of policies, laws and regulations across Africa
- Harmonization across the African continent on the GDPR model which defines laws and frameworks protecting citizens and their data
- Involvement of the African private sector to self-finance the infrastructure sector
- Implementation of formulas to attract investors with a wide choice

Other points discussed:

Financing questions:

- Who has access to the universal fund, who manages it? What governance of this fund?
- How should the private sector become more involved in infrastructure investments? How can we promote this?
- How to get the African private sector to become more involved in investments in technological space in Africa and at the same time be able to solve the problem of populations

Recommended implementable Actions :

- Unity. Africa must remain unified in order to face the challenges of the Internet. We must remain united from the point of view of regulation and regulation. It will also be necessary to unify within the framework of regulations at the sub-regional, regional and global levels from the point of view of infrastructures, and others which could remove many ambiguities at the level of international investors.
- Set up an African platform to deal with specific issues related to business in Africa. This platform is expected to extend across the entire continent and cover

a broad spectrum of data centers, exchange points, broadband infrastructure, fiber, etc. In short, to set up a platform for solution for solving the problems of Africa as a whole and intended to promote the financing of solutions.

- The need to have a global vision in order to improve transparency in the processes.

- Unify broadband infrastructure in order to have and enable a reliable and affordable internet connection.

- Find an efficient way to harmonize the laws and regulations on a continental scale, hence facilitating overcome of the big challenges.

- Get together in a group and put in place sub-regional and regional regulations and not just to be satisfied with national ones.

- Deployment of "white-space" technologies to promote access to rural areas.

- Improve accessibility by focusing progress in the development of services in line with the needs of target populations.

Closing Ceremony:

Moderated by: Adil Suleiman, African Union Commission
Rapporteurs: Taiwo Peter Akinremi, Africa Rapporteur Network
Vote of Thanks: Ms. Noha Abel Baky, Egypt
Speakers:

- Jean Paul Adam, UNECA
- Moctar Yedaly, African Union

Adil Sulieman who appreciated the participants then gave the floor to Noha Abel Baky for the vote of thanks. Noha applauded the organizers and speakers, technical community, rapporteurs and interpreters. She thanked the African Union Commission, partners, African IGF Secretariat, the MAG members and the MAG Chair. She expressed gratitude to the attendees from the different African regions for their effective and meaningful participation because they are the main success factor of the forum. Noha further thanked the internet for making it possible for the gathering and put forward that stakeholder must ensure to maintain and protect internet openness and free nature.

Moctar Yedaly, African Union thanked the speakers and every one for participating on activities towards the road to digital transformation. He noted that whether we like or not, digital transformation will happen and we need to be part of it. Moctar touched upon the Fourth industrial revolution which is the digital transformation. He noted the role of the youth as the future of African, digital sovereignty as a key issue for Africa. Moctar stresses that Africa digital transformation does not necessarily need to follow other ways and Africa must find a way of its digital transformation. And hopes the network of parliament would be emulated by other regions. He then thanked ICANN, IGF southern African, IGFSA, APC, ISOC, AFRINIC, and European Union for collaborating with AU under the PRIDA project. He hopes the next IGF will be addressing the issues raised in this African IGF towards Digital transformation, and Digital Sovereignty.

Jean Paul Adam, UNECA reiterated the joint support of his institution to the African Union to strengthen internet governance in Africa towards digital transformation. He reaffirmed the commitment of the work on digital transformation. Due to covid-19 pandemic and climate, there is need to do things in a different way and African populations must not be caught in the race to the bottom in the area of low quality production; they rather invest in truly transformative economic development framework and digital transformation which are the key enabler for transformative development. He thanked the African Union for their partnership.

The 9th African Virtual Internet Governance Forum (vAfIGF2020)

25-27 November 2020

"Unlocking Africa's Digital Opportunities During and Post COVID-19"

Draft Agenda and Work Programme

Pre-Event I: 23rd November 2019: African School on Internet Governance

Pre-Event II: 24th November 2020: African Youth Internet Government Forum

Day 0: 25 November 2020

7:00 - 08:30 UTC	**PARALLEL SESSIONS SEGMENT I**				
	Room 1	**Room 2**	**Room 3**	**Room 4**	**Room 5**
	#WS 1: Key issues in Data protection policy making and implementation -	#WS 2: Campaigning on digital rights at the UN, Universal Periodic Review Sessions.	#WS 3: Universal Acceptance (UA) and Email Address Internationalisation(EAI) for Supporting a Multilingual Internet in Africa	#WS 4: Policy Considerations for Community Networks in Africa	#WS 5: Security of digital products and services: A development perspective

09:00 - 10:00 UTC	**PARALLEL SESSIONS SEGMENT II**				
	Room 1	**Room 2**	**Room 3**	**Room 4**	**Room 5**
	#WS 6: Blockages and bottlenecks in digital government pipelines in Africa	#WS 7: Discussions of IGF 2020 Outcomes	#WS 8: Safe, stable and reliable internet: digital rights of citizens (Session in french)	#WS 9: ccTLDs and Internet Governance in Africa	#WS 10: E-commerce: What challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurial youth

11:00 - 12:30 UTC	**PARALLEL SESSIONS SEGMENT III**			
	Room 1	**Room 2**	**Room 3**	**Room 4**
	#WS 11: The digital economy in Africa, possibilities and challenges	#WS 12: Improving evidence-based Internet policies: UNESCO's launch of IGF Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators (IUIs) and presentation of national Assessments	#WS 13: ISOC Capacity Building	#WS 14: Community Networks, Electricity, Digital Inclusion, Spectrum and the Regulatory Environment

12:45 - 01:15 UTC	**Opening Ceremony** • **Mr. Chengetai Masango, Head, IGF Secretariat** • A high-level representative of EU • The Executive Secretary of UNECA • **H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid**, Commissioner Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union **Rapporteurs:** Mr. Peter Taiwo Akinremi, Nigeria Ms. Noha Abel Baky, Egypt	
01:20-02:20 UTC	**Pre-Event Recommendations** Recommendations from breakout Sessions and youth summit (3 Mins each) • **Moderator:** Dr Margaret Nyambura Ndung'u, PRIDA • **Rapporteur:** Mr. Peter Taiwo Akinremi, Nigeria	

Day 1: 26th November 2020	

08:00 - 09:30 UTC	**#PS 1: High-level Discussion on Internet Governance issues during and Post COVID-19** **Moderator: Mr. Moctar Yedaly**, Head of Information Society Division, AUC **Panelists:** • **Dr. Sherif Hashem**, member, African Union Cybersecurity Expert Group • **Prof Clement Dzidonu (Ghana)**, Academia • **Dr. Cisse Kane (Senegal)**, Civil Society • **Eng. Hossam Elgamal (Egypt)**, Private Sector • **Mr. Keith Andere (Kenya)**, African Youth Commission • **Jean Paul Adam**, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa • **Hon. Mrs Fatoumata Njai (The Gambia)**, Parliamentarian **Rapporteur:** Junior Dieka, UNECA **Online Moderator:** Ms. Noha Abel Baky, Egypt
9:40 – 11:10 UTC	**#PS 2: Unlocking the Digital Potentials of the DLDC** Moderator: **Dr. Jimson Olufuye,** CEO Kontemporary® **Panelists:** • **Dr. Kossi AMESSINOU**, Ministry of Planning and Development, Benin • **Dr. Nnenna Ifeanyi-Ajufo**, member, African Union Cybersecurity Expert Group • **Ms. Lily Edinam**, Community Engagement, Hacklab Foundation, Ghana • **Dr. Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola**, Chair, African Union Cybersecurity Expert Group • **Mr. Jerry Shikkule,** Enterprise Sales Lead, Africa - Craft Silicon, Kenya **Rapporteurs:** • Olusegun H. Olugbile • Kayode Oyeyemi • Dada Samuel

Online Moderator: Mr Adetola Sogbesan, Nigeria

#PS 3: Creating a sustainable digital taxation regime in Africa

Moderator: **Dr. Alison Gillwald,** Executive Director, RIA, South Africa

Panelists:
- **Mr. Thulani Shongwe**, African Tax Administration Forum
- **Ms Juliet Nanfuka**, CIPESA
- **Ms. Lydia Bonyo**, Africa Lawyers Hub
- **Ms. Gaia Penteriani**, GSM Association
- **Mr. Raymond Onohua**, Lagos Business School
- **Mr. Artur Olszewski**, OECD

Rapporteur: Shamira Ahmed
Online Moderator: Shamira Ahmed

11:40 – 13:10 UTC

#PS 4: Digital Cooperation

Moderator: **Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen**, IGF MAG Chair

Panelists:

- **Hon. Massani Koroney**, West African IGF Parliamentary Network
- **Ms. Xianhong Hu**, UNESCO
- **Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma**, World Wide Web Foundation
- **Dr. Dawit Bekele**, Regional Vice President for Africa ISOC
- **Mr. Pierre Dandjinou**, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa region ICANN
- **Dr Mactar Seck**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA
- **Ms. Anna Ekeledo**, Executive Director, AfriLabs

Rapporteurs: Muriel Alapini, Benin, Afi Edoh, Ghana
Online Moderator: Ms. Karen Landa, UNESCO

01:20 - 02:50 UTC

Day 3: 27 November 2020

#PS 5: Launch of the African IGF Parliamentary Network (AfIGF-PARLNet)
        NRIs Session
Moderator: Mr. Makane Faye, Secretary, African IGF

Panelists:
- Launch of AfIGF-PARLNet: MP Massani Koroney, Niger
- National IGF which held a Forum in 2020 (3 minutes each)
- Regional IGF which held a Forum in 2020 (3 minutes each)
- Youth IGF which held a Forum in 2020 (3 minutes each)

8:00 – 9:00 UTC

	Rapporteur: Mr. Peter Taiwo Akinremi, Nigeria **Online Moderator:** Mr. Peter Taiwo Akinremi, Nigeria
9:10 – 10:40 UTC	**#PS 6: Digital Identity in Africa** **Moderator**: Dr. Mawaki Chango, Founder & CEO, DigiLexis Consulting Panelists: ● **Mr. Emmanuel Vitus Agbenonwossi**, Executive Director, Afrotribune ● **Ms. Grace Bomu**, kenya High Court ● **Ms. Melody Musoni** 2020 research fellow, Center for African Affairs and Conflict Research, South Africa ● **Dr. Tunde Fafunwa,** Chief Digital Identity Project, UNECA ● **Ms. Mavis A. Ampah**, The World Bank, Lead ICT Policy Specialist ● **Dr. Zinsou Djima Ambroise**, General Secretary of the Benin Personal Data Protection Authority ● **Mr. Michael Ilishebo**, Law Enforcement Expert, Zambia **Rapporteur:** Ayehualem Tameru , Junio Dieka **Online Moderator:** Ms. Amanda Manyame, South Africa
10:50 – 12:30 UTC	**#PS 7: Infrastructure and digital service: for which territoriality** **Moderator:** Dr. Towela Jere, AUD Panelists: ● **Mr. Chokri Ben Romdhane,** Tunisia ● **Mr. Francis Olivier Cubahiro,** Director of ICT, Burundi ● **Dr. Ing. Alioune Badara Traore,** CNOSM, Mali ● **Dr. Kate Getau,** ICT Authority of Kenya ● **Mr. Eric Stéphane Sindeu**, ART, Cameroon **Rapporteur:** Michel Tchonang Linze, CAPDA **Online moderator:** Ms. Afi Edoh, Ghana
13:00 – 14:30	**Closing Ceremony** **Speakers:** ● Representative of UNECA ● Representative of AUC **Vote of thanks**: Ms. Noha Ashraf Abel Baky, Egypt **Rapporteur:** Mr. Peter Taiwo Akinremi, Nigeria